

**TT No.5: Steve Hardy - Saturday 5th August 2017; Burton Park Wanderers v Blackstones; United Counties League Division One; Kick-Off: 3.00pm; Result: 0-3; Admission for a grockle: £3; Programme: £1. Attendance: just 19.**

Match 2 today was just 10 miles up the A43 in Burton Latimer, and was reached by driving through a rain storm of biblical proportions where only the plague of frogs was absent.

I knew that BPW are now sharing their ground with Kettering Town, but I had no inkling of the developments that had occurred in the last year. For a start, BPW are no longer the lessees of Latimer Park, their home since 1973. Their landlord had been charging them a peppercorn rent for the past 40 years, but once Kettering Town asked for permission to play there, the landlord immediately upped the rent to a figure that BPW could no longer afford and so Kettering became the main tenant. Speaking to club officials I learned that Kettering had built a brand-new clubhouse which they don't let BPW use, and have plans to demolish the whole place to build their own state of the art ground at which there will be no place for BPW at all.

The whole matchday experience was very depressing I thought. A crowd of just 19 assembled, including several from Blackstones, and a more one-sided match would be difficult to find. The visitors led 2-0 at the break and, in all honesty, it could have been 6 or 7. They added a third in the second half before taking their foot off the gas as BPW were offering nothing up front to challenge them at all.

A small portakabin was serving hot drinks and snacks, and the programme consisted of a 4 page insert inside a last season's cover. All very sad in my opinion.